

Author A.C. Frieden Explores the Maldives

SOUTH ARI ATOLL, Maldives (May 19, 2013) – Novelist A.C. Frieden arrived in the Maldives to research the islands, reefs and marine life in the South Ari Atoll. Using the Vilamendhoo Island Resort as his base, Frieden’s dives focused on finding interesting, unique sites that could be featured in an upcoming novel. “Once you’re underwater, it’s easy to see why the Maldives is one of the top diving destinations,” said Frieden. “It’s all here to see up close—whale sharks, eels, rays, turtles, and more—and I’m already thinking about how to include this in a thriller plot.”



(Above) Author A.C. Frieden dives in the South Ari Atoll, Maldives.

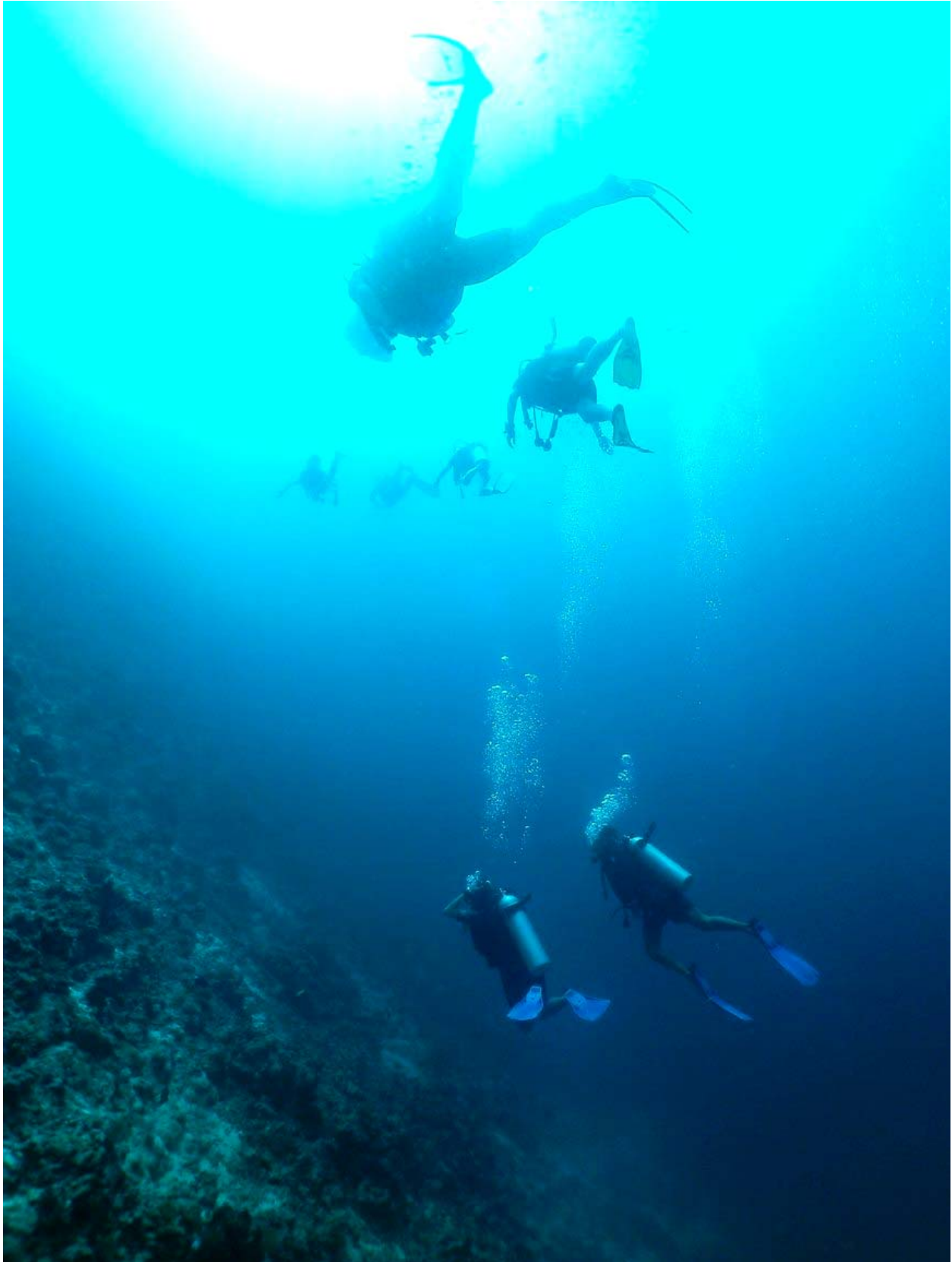
The South Ari Atoll is part is a large atoll located in the west of the archipelago. The dozens of islands that make up the atoll are spread of a wide area and many are designated as self-contained tourist resorts. The South Ari Atoll is about a thirty-minute seaplane flight from the Maldivian capital Malé. This part of the Indian Ocean is known for its unique marine life, making it an ideal destination for scuba divers.



(Above) A.C. Frieden about to board a seaplane in Malé, Maldives. Seaplanes are a common form of transportation for visitors to the archipelago because it provides rapid access to remote islands.



(Above) While in the Maldives, Frieden stayed at the Vilamendhoo Island Resort, seen here from a seaplane.



(Above) *One of over a dozen dives where A.C. Frieden explored reefs and marine life in the South Ari Atoll.*



(Above) A large moray eel comes out of a crevice to look for prey.



(Above) A.C. Frieden spotted this 20-foot whale shark passing by at a shallow depth.



(Above) A.C. Frieden on the Euro Divers dive boat, heading to an area known for its whale sharks.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is an international author and lawyer based in Chicago. His works include the Jonathan Brooks series thrillers *Tranquility Denied* and *The Serpent's Game*, as well as other fiction and non-fiction books. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his blogs.

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